

J.J.

WATCH OUT FOR THE COMING DAYS Matthew 24:36-42

Matthew 24: 36 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,[f but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

INTRODUCTION :

Last week, as the start of the preaching for January, we started preaching on what to Watch Out for the Coming Days

As Christians, we better be ready.

How? We will do a quick exposition of Matthew 24

Things to watch out for to make sure you are ready.

Illustration: You might be thinking right now, "How can pastor preach this at the start of the year?" You know what, while I was in El Nido, I was enjoying the view and I was taking photograph when I saw one of the helpers in the resort and was asking me to move. It was early in the morning and I wasn't bothering anyone. He told me I was sitting under the coconut tree and one of the coconuts might fall on me anytime. I don't want the coconut to fall on your head in the middle of your vacation and relaxation.

THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

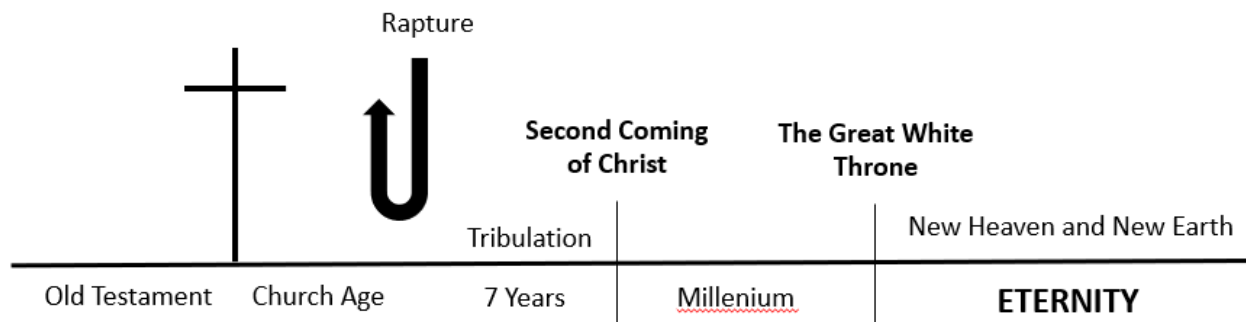
SOUL
SIGNS
SON

I. WATCH OUT FOR YOUR OWN SOUL

9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of

wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Now, we have to put things in context here. Our Lord is talking about the tribulation. I preached before based on the escathological timeline that before the tribulation, Christians, and when I say this, the true followers of Christ will be raptured.



So watch out for your soul. Test yourself if you are in the faith.

2 Corinthians 13: 5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

So the question is, how do you watch out for your soul? How do you test it?

The question is, "How's your love for God?"

How's your love for other people in the church?"

John 13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

1 John 4 : 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

TODAY BY GOD'S GRACE WILL CONTINUE ON WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR :

II. WATCH OUT FOR THE SIGNS

Story : A man was driving one car and then a woman driving another car ignored the stop sign in a four-way stop. They crashed into each other.

Both of their cars are demolished, but amazingly neither of them was hurt.

After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said, "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately, we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"

The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of 75-year-old scotch didn't break. Surely God meant for us to drink this vintage delicacy and celebrate our good fortune."

Then she handed the bottle to the man. The man nods his head in agreement, opened it, drank half the bottle, and then handed it back to the woman. The woman took the bottle, immediately put the cap back on, and handed it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"

She replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."

While I was driving in the Philippines, people were ignoring traffic signs.

You know the saying in the Philippines, signs are only suggestions. But I noticed, when people are driving in Subic and when Filipinos are in a different country, they follow the signs.

Signs are important. It signals something to watch out for.

The reason why we need to watch for the signs is because it gives us hope to when our Lord Jesus Christ is coming back.

Matthew 24: 32 "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. 34 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

What are these signs our Lord is talking about?

CONTEXT : Let us be clear again, the signs our Lord is pointing here refers to His Second Coming. This is not about the Rapture – where our Lord Jesus Christ will suddenly come and take away His church.

Difference again between Rapture and Second Coming

- **The Rapture is The Return of Christ IN the clouds TO REMOVE all believers FROM the earth BEFORE the Tribulation. It is a stealth event.**

1 Thessalonians 1: 10...wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5: 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

- **The Second Coming is the Return of Christ ON the clouds WITH the believers TO the earth to END the tribulation, defeat the Anti-Christ and evil and establish His millennial kingdom. It's a public event.**

Revelation 19: 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He [e]had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies

in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

**KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.**

Matthew 24: 30 30 "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

APPLICATION : Now, IF THE SIGNS in Matthew 24 IS ABOUT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST, why is it important watch out for it.

Matthew 24:8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

FOR THE CHURCH : This means anytime soon, our Lord Jesus Christ will come back again to take believers home.

NOTE : Some Christians I talk with are scared about this. Why? It's because of ignorance. They don't know. Or they are so in love with this world that is so temporary, that they forgot the best is when we are with our Lord.

Let me give you an illustration :

When I was flying home to the Philippines, was I scared of seeing my mom? Of course not, I was excited because I will see her again and I know I am going to a place to see my Nanay whom I love and going to a place where I know I am loved.

Seeing Jesus Christ is seeing the one you love and know that you will be the one who loves you perfectly and unconditionally.

Second Illustration : You know when I went to the Philippines, I did a lot of hiking, canyoneering, jumping off cliffs into the water. But I told my wife, I think that's the last time I'm going to do it. Why? It's because while I was going from one rock to the other or trying to balance in the mud, my knees were involuntarily buckling. It means, I'm not young anymore. I'm decaying.

And some Christians do not know that when we are raptured, this is what happens.

Remember again, what happens in the Rapture :

1 Thessalonians 5: 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

What happens to our bodies?

1 Corinthians 15 : 51 Behold, I tell you a [m]ystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality,

In the previous verse, it says :

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

In short, we will have glorified and perfect bodies that will never decay.

Illustration : I was telling my wife, that I saw the difference in my Nanay's age when I came back.

The last time I was there in 2018 we celebrated her 80th. She was still energetic and still walks fast and will even leave us in the mall. She will be turning 85 this year and I noticed that she is walking much slower and gets easily tired and her walking was even wobbly. It pains me to see her that way. But that's the reality. By God's grace, one of these days, I will see her as I saw her when I was a child – strong and even more. When we last saw Jannette, she was very weak and can't even stand. I can't wait for the day to see her again, strong and healthy and perfect and glorified bodies and shouting again in a loud voice praising the Lord.

So now, as a believer, aren't you excited for the Rapture?

So what are the signs our Lord mentioned in Matthew 24 at His Second Coming? Remember, the Rapture has no signs but we have a term in Tagalog, we know "namumuro" na.

- **False Messiahs**

4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many.

Recent example : Dave Koresh

Here's how the NY Times described him :

It was not until 1986 or 1987, when Mr. Koresh moved with many of his followers to what had been a quiet, pastoral retreat of the Branch Davidians here, that Mr. Koresh began transforming himself into a self-proclaimed Messiah, former cult members said. It was also in Texas that he began developing the conviction that his followers should prepare for a bloody confrontation with nonbelievers that would end in his resurrection -- and their ticket to Heaven.

<https://www.nytimes.com/1993/03/03/us/messiah-fond-of-bible-rock-and-women.html#:~:text=Koresh%20began%20transforming%20himself%20into,and%20their%20ticket%20to%20Heaven.>

In the Philippines alone, who proclaims he is THE APPOINTED SON – Apollo Quiboloy

- **Wars and Rumours of Wars**

6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

Why is Russia in the news again when it comes to war?

It's because you will see in Ezekiel 38 and Daniel 11, that the king of north "from the far north" will send armies and arrive in Israel.

There's a reason why Ukraine is being invaded from a spiritual warfare, Ukraine is the jumping point of missionaries in Eastern Europe.

The king of the north will have an alliance and most of these alliance will now be in "countries like Kazakhshtan, Krygystan, Usbekistan, Turkeminstan, Tajikistan and even Afghanistan, all former constituents of the Soviet Union"

What's the same with all this "stan" countries? Islam. And we know they hate Jews in Israel.

<https://davidjeremiah.blog/what-does-the-bible-say-about-modern-russia/>

- **Famines and earthquakes around the world.**

7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

NBC NEWS

The annual number of "great" earthquakes nearly tripled over the last decade, providing a reminder to Americans that unruptured faults like those in the northwest United States might be due for a Big One.

Between 2004 and 2014, 18 earthquakes with magnitudes of 8.0 or more rattled subduction zones around the globe. That's an increase of 265 percent over the average rate of the previous century, which saw 71 great quakes, according to a report to the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America this week in Vancouver, British Columbia.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/worldwide-surge-great-earthquakes-seen-past-10-years-n233661>

REUTERS NEWS : EUPHRATES DRYING UP

Nadhir Al-Ansari, professor at Sweden's Lulea University of Technology, said rainfall in Iraq had declined by 30% over the past three decades, with the lowest precipitation coming in the last two years.

"What was once known as the Fertile Crescent started to die about 35 years ago," he said.

Lower volumes of water flowing from Turkey through the Tigris and Euphrates, rivers on which Iraq has depended most for irrigation, have left it more exposed when the rain dried up, said Harry Istepanian, an independent energy and water expert in Washington and a senior fellow at the Iraq Energy Institute.

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/climate-un-mideast-water/>

Why did I mention this? It's because it plays a big part in the Armageddon

Revelation 16: 12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east.

Important to Note : Again, let me remind you, I'm showing this not because I'm saying these are the signs but to show you that it can happen – that the Euphrates River can dry up.

Again, this is what our Lord says :

8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Then our Lord mentioned other signs in Matthew 24 which by God's grace we will study in-depth when we go back to the Book of Revelation.

But we go back to our initial study :

WATCH OUT FOR YOUR SOUL, WATCH OUT FOR THE SIGNS....

We watch out for the signs because it makes us conscious that we watch out for our souls...

Let me end with two true stories :

STORY 1 : Some of you already know the story I told years ago where the wife of our family doctor in Stratford had a car accident that caused her death. She and her husband bought a house in Bayfield, a big house overlooking Lake Huron. She just also bought a brand new BMW or Benz (I forgot but we know it was brand new) . They were already preparing for their retirement. One time, on her way to their future retirement home, she was riding in the countryside, someone ignored or did not see the big STOP signs. What happened, her car was T-boned and she died on the spot.

STORY 2 : In my first job in advertising, I knew my boss was a born-again Christian. She was my creative director who later on became my ninang and she shared to me the Gospel. One time, there was an earthquake and all of us went under our desk. She also went under but she began telling everyone, "Repent. Jesus is coming."

Why did I tell these two stories?

If you are a believer, knowing that Jesus will come back again and He has His rewards, are you involved in the spreading of His kingdom, in inviting people to church, in sharing the Gospel so that they will be saved from the coming tribulation and of course from hell?

Remember, what we want to hear is "Well done my, good and faithful servant"

Illustration : I heard a story about Jett, who recently celebrated her birthday. That when Renz and his high school classmates had a reunion, one of the things she did is share the Gospel with them. She planted the seed.

If you are an unbeliever, I was an unbeliever at first, when I heard my boss shout, "Repent. Jesus is coming." And even found her weird. But then by God's grace, I came to know Jesus Christ and the Bible as the truth and saw that everything is true in God's Word. I'm asking you right now, to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved from the coming wrath of God to come.

Next week, we'll talk about **WATCH OUT FOR THE SON.**

S.G.D.